

# THE DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

## A Global Race to the Top to Encourage Successful Democratic Transitions

### Overview of the Task Force on Moldova

On July 1, 2011, leaders participating in the Vilnius Ministerial of the Community of Democracies inaugurated a new mechanism to support emerging democracies – the Democracy Partnership Challenge. The initiative channels expertise and resources from more established democracies to address priorities identified by countries that are in the midst of promising transitions.

Over the course of two years, country-specific task forces comprised of governments, civil society organizations, and private sector partners will work together to provide support in areas outlined by the Governments of Tunisia and Moldova – the first countries selected to participate in the initiative.

As co-chairs of the Democracy Partnership Challenge Task Force for Moldova, the United States and Poland hosted the inaugural meeting of the Task Force in Washington D.C. on December 7, 2011. At their request and in close coordination with our Moldovan partners, this task force is working to provide resources, expertise, and support to Moldova as the country enters the next stage in its democratic transition.

At the inaugural meeting of the Task Force, the co-chairs asked members to volunteer to lead sector specific teams focused on each of the five areas outlined in the Democracy Partnership Challenge application submitted by the Government of Moldova. The local governance group is led by Poland, justice sector by the United States, the transparency of government/e-governance group is led by Lithuania, and the security sector reform group by Hungary. Each of the groups has agreed on a common objective for their team, and has outlined specific contributions that each member will commit to the work of the team.

The work of the Task Force is being carried out through quarterly conference calls and regular e-mail coordination with team members. The next in-person meeting of the Task Force on Moldova will be held in Warsaw in December/January, 2012.

### Common Objectives Identified by Sector Specific Teams

**Local Governance:** To establish the Information Center for Local Authorities in Moldova. The Centre is expected to strengthen capacity of the Moldovan local authorities and NGOs oriented on local development in order to improve their effectiveness in finding relevant external funding and fulfilling donor's application requirements.

**Justice Sector Reform:** To support Moldova's Justice Sector reform (including law enforcement reform), according to the Action Plan developed by the Ministry of Justice.

**Transparency of Government/e-Governance:** To consider the activities/projects in areas identified by the E-Government Center.

**Security Sector Reform:** To support the reform of the Ministries of the Interior and Defense, and in particular the reform of the armed forces, and secret services.

### Next Steps

**April 2nd-13th**

**April 30th**

**May 15th**

***Schedule the next series of conference calls***

***Determine timeline and work plan of identified projects***

***Present work plan of identified projects to co-chairs by and begin implementation***

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